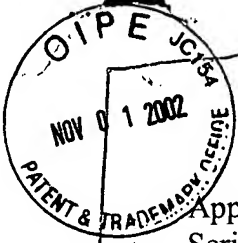


1619



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas J. McMurry et al. Art Unit : 1619
 Serial No. : 10/034,522 Examiner : M. Hartley
 Filed : December 20, 2001
 Title : DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CONTRAST AGENTS WITH EXTENDED
 BLOOD RETENTION

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Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please add the following paragraph after the Title:

-- RELATED APPLICATION DATA

This application is a continuation of United States Patent Application No. 08/875,365, filed December 12, 1997, ^{now abandoned} which is a §371 application of International Patent Application No. PCT/US96/00164 (WO 96/23526), filed January 16, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application 08/382,317, filed February 1, 1995, ^{now abandoned}

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 20 with the following paragraph:

-- Examples of chemical groups which would serve as a BHEM include carbon, phosphorous, tungsten, molybdenum, or sulfur atoms having attached charged or neutral

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

October 25, 2002

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